

City of Cincinnati



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David S. Mann
Vice Mayor/Councilmember

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MOTION

WE MOVE that the Administration take all appropriate actions to ensure that residents on Vandalia Ave. between Dane Ave. and Chambers St. maintain access to their homes; and

WE FURTHER MOVE that the Administration take all appropriate actions to ensure police, fire and public services personnel continue to have access to provide basic city services to residents on Vandalia Ave.; and

WE FURTHER MOVE that any future economic development incentives or zone changes that are brought before the Council for this site include a long term solution to provide public access to houses on Vandalia Ave.

Vice Mayor David Mann

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By Sittafeld
Yvette Simpson

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STATEMENT

The issue on Vandalia Ave. is one of the more complicated matters that has been brought to my attention since returning to Council. For decades, seven houses on Vandalia Ave. – which is a former rail line in Northside—have only had access to their property through a parking lot on top of the old rail right of way. The site currently has a street sign that indicates it is a private street, but there is no other infrastructure in place indicating that it is a street.

However, the sale of this land has put the the residents that live there in jeopardy of being cut off from their home. Acknowledging that the residents and the new property owner have engaged attorneys to dispute what rights exist on the street (and whether or not a street actually exists), this motion directs the Administration to take all appropriate steps to ensure that the Vandalia residents, along with public safety and public services staff have access to the property. As it stands currently, each property has a small, non-drivable easement to reach their homes, but should the new owner install fencing, attempt to redevelop the lot, or take other actions these properties would be completely inaccessible from important city services that have long served Vandalia Street.

The importance of access to these homes is not only one of ease and comfort for the residents, but it is also a public safety concern. The Administration should use whatever tools it has at its disposal to maintain this access.

Additionally, should this property be redeveloped, this motion directs the Administration not to bring any development incentives or zone changes before City Council that support a project that does not provide long term public access to the residents currently living on Vandalia Ave. This Council is not in the business of approving new development that has a direct and negative impact on residents living directly adjacent to the property.